

an uncured core which is cured under the application of heat and light energy; wherein the surface of each said image forming element at least partially protrudes out of and is not covered with the binder.", as recited in claim 1 of the patent.

As set forth in column 4, lines 11-36 of Nakajima et al. '590, the irregular surface of the sheet of Nakajima et al '590 is formed by a microcapsule having a particle size of 1-20 μm which is partially protruded out of, and is not covered with, a binder (col. 4, lines 11-36). Thus, the top of the irregular surface of the sheet of Nakajima et al. '590 is not flat as in the present invention, but round like a ball due to the shape of the partially protruded microcapsule, as seen in the drawings of Nakajima et al. '590. The top of the irregular surface of the sheet of Nakajima et al. '590 does not have a "convex-concave transfer pattern formed on one side of the substrate sheet, a top portion and a bottom portion of the convex-concave pattern of the releasable resin layer having a flat cross sectional shape with a fine irregular surface having an arithmetic average roughness Ra of 1.5 to 30.0 μm ", as recited in claim 4 of the present application.

As new claim 4 is believed to be patentable over the cited reference, it is submitted that claim 5 is also patentable as it depends from claim 4.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections of record have been overcome. The Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Date: 12/18/02

WILDMAN, HARROLD, ALLEN & DIXON
225 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
Ph. 312/201-2000
Fax 312/201-2555

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

Timothy J. Keefer, Reg. No. 35,567